

same time to develop a system that can capture that technology and at the same time look at HIV/AIDS and make sure there is a vaccine bill, and that we keep trying. We are all trying to get it through.

But right now, because of the medical liability issues which we are going to address in July, when you have predatory trial lawyers—not all are predatory—who are really going to come in and say that vaccine has certain side effects, there is going to be a lawsuit, and there will be a lot of frivolous lawsuits that drive up the cost of health care and drive people to the ranks of the uninsured.

One last issue which I didn't mention earlier but which we addressed on the floor goes into this—medical safety in the hospital.

The Institute of Medicine report said there are 100,000 people who die every year because of medical errors in the hospital. Most of that is cross-reaction from drugs and the like. The best way to approach that is to have information voluntarily shared by physicians and by nurses to learn in an ongoing, continuous quality management program and to have that information available, which is correct, and which is self-correcting. But if you have predatory trial lawyers all the way around, and you have incentives not to share that information, we are never going to make this system better.

So it all fits together: the science, the technology, the framework which the Senator explained so well. What we are doing in Medicare, the access to prescription drugs, global HIV/AIDS—you put all that together. If we keep moving things, as we have in the last, I would say, 6 months, I am absolutely—absolutely—convinced we are going to be able to capture those hopes.

In many ways, people say: You're dreaming. You describe them as hopes. Having seen science and technology in my own life, they may have started as dreams, and they may be hopes now, but in our lifetimes they are going to be reality.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you so much for your comments. I was very pleased to yield.

I just want to say, without hopes and dreams in these fields, there is no question we are overwhelmed. It is hopes and hope-filled ideas that keep us energized. But it does not mean we do not have a big job because, as a matter of fact, the hopes can truly be deenergized by systems that do not let it work. That is what we have to worry about.

In my opinion, the breakthroughs are going to be so rapid that the bureaucracy that manages the change is going to have to be looked at all the time by people who really know. The breakthroughs will occur, and it will make your 5-year example—of how long it took for the heart to go from being done to being accepted—it will make that example pale as compared to the breakthroughs that are going to be over and over and around here and over

there. We think the new bureaucracy—which the Senator and others helped put together—will make that work better.

I do want to hold the floor. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Senator from New Mexico.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF STROM THURMOND

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to speak about my friend, Senator Strom Thurmond. I do not have any prepared remarks but I want to speak for a few moments about Senator Strom Thurmond.

Senator Strom Thurmond spent many, many years sitting in the seat, for those observing the Senate Chamber, right next to the seat where the distinguished majority leader is sitting right now.

I have eight children. Senator Thurmond, as everyone knows, lived a very long life with his first wife without children. I don't know if that had anything to do with his huge interest in asking people such as me how my children were, and I am not one who is very loathe to tell people about my children's successes.

So he used to say to me, and to anyone around, he would point at me, and say: "There is the Senator with all the smart kids." Of course, I was embarrassed, and I would bend down and say: "Senator, there are lots of Senators with smart children."

Then he would say: "Well, you told me about one" . . . and he would explain what I told him. He would ask, "how is that one doing?"

Well, obviously, those days are gone now. I was privileged, with my wife Nancy, to go to the wedding of his daughter here in this town not too many years ago. It was a beautiful wedding, a big wedding. It was a beautiful daughter and a beaming father, Strom Thurmond.

He was already past 90, for certain, and how thrilled he was to walk down the aisle and to be part of the normal wedding activities.

I note that with all the blessings he has received in his life, and all the legacy that he leaves, he got one blessing that he deserved; that is, that wedding and that marriage yielded his first grandchild. And I just wonder because he had already left the Senate; he was no longer here; he was in a hospital, but I just wonder, how happy that day must have been for him. He had a grandchild at that very old age.

There are Senators, such as from his home State, who have known him through campaigns and actions and activities that I hear of. I have read of these activities, but I did not participate in them, so they will do better than I in talking about him. But I am 71. I am very lucky, I feel, in that I have spent 31 years in the Senate. The only thing I did prior to that is, 6½ years before I came here, I accepted a

dare from a group of friends to run for an office. I ran and got elected. And that office was for city council, which put me in a mayorship of sorts in our biggest city.

So you know, if you write down, at 71, what I have done: I ran for a non-partisan office, got elected, served 4 years, waited 2 years, got elected to the Senate, and came here. But we all know, if we are going to put down what Strom Thurmond has done as a public servant, all of which clearly is one's legacy, it would take me quite a while to discuss it all. Just his military career would be a rather good speech and a rather good talk on the Senate floor.

The other thing that, to me, is of such rare, rare importance is that when you consider 100 years, and that 80 or 79 of those years he was an adult, you just think of all the things that have changed during his adulthood. Governance, governmental changes, cultural changes, philosophical leanings and tendencies of our great country changing. You have to conclude that this man, who represented a State that also changed and had become a great industrial State, and a great educational State, with fantastic educational institutions, that this great man also learned how to change. He changed with time, not changing in the sense of giving up but rather of gaining more for himself and becoming more rather than becoming less.

Now, I have known a lot of great Senators, more than most, because there are only five or six Senators who have been here longer than I, as of today, maybe five. So I have known a lot of them. I think it is only fair to say, for his family, for Nancy, for his children, there really have never been any Senators like him that I have been privileged to know.

He was indeed unique. He was so different that you cannot forget him. First, he was so personal to everyone. He was never forgetting. He was always considerate. He spent more time and effort at little things.

I know nothing about his constituent work. Let those who know speak. I speak of little things here in the Senate. The Chair and I both watched during a week at the end of a day's work, we watched Strom Thurmond while he was still around and healthy and walking. We watched what he did. He went with his staff from one event to another, perhaps three, four, five events an evening, because he had been invited and because it was somebody who said: "Would you come to my party?" "Would you come to my fundraiser?" "Would you come to my birthday?" "Would you come and join me; we have visitors from my State." What it was that made him that kind of person, who knows? I don't know. You don't know. The Senate doesn't know. I am not sure his family knows. But the truth is, we know he did that.

All of these would appear, what I have said so far, to be things that one might say are not very important.

Well, I stated them because I think they are very important. They are of utmost importance. I think they are the essence of who he is and what he is and what he was.

But don't let anyone think he didn't do his work. When you look at the committees he chaired, the events that happened during those chair-filled years, be it on the Judiciary, on Armed Services, or whatever, you have to know he had a great capacity for work and he did his work and got it done.

Can you just imagine not having a chance to know him when he was a judge? What a great judge he would have been. Can you imagine, not having a chance to know him, what a good school superintendent he must have been? Can you imagine not getting to know him, what a good commissioner he must have been at the local level where he governed? For I believe he is what he was. And it is probable that he took care to do everything right and he took care to be concerned and worried about people, as he did his job, and that he never forgot the people who were good to him and meant something to his success.

I, for one, am very sorry we will be going to a funeral. But, I guess it is really only fair to say that he has been very blessed. After all, we won't, any of us, ever go to a funeral for a fellow Senator who has lived 100 years—none of us. This will be the only one. Because he has been very, very blessed. The Lord has been kind and decent to him. Those around him should be very proud. Obviously, his kinfolk are sad.

I remember at that wedding, while we were celebrating youth, his daughter was a young lady. I remember meeting his sister, two sisters I believe. They were alive and there. I don't mean to cast any aspersions about the fact they were alive. They were lively, I assure you. They knew a lot. They were talking. They were carrying on conversations. Strom Thurmond was talking with them about us and my wife Nancy.

They were quick to ask us to sit down, and you could hardly believe that a man almost 100 was there with sisters at a wedding for a very young daughter of his, who has just since then had his first grandchild. What a beautiful, beautiful tribute all of this is to Strom Thurmond's family, to their heritage, and to those around them and those who love them.

My wife Nancy and I extend our heartfelt condolences to Nancy and all of the other kinfolk, to his relatives, and clearly to his daughter and son-in-law who have that young grandchild of whom he must be so proud.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, last evening we received the news of the passing of a dear friend and leader in this Chamber, Strom Thurmond. Strom Thurmond retired this year at the age of 100 after more than half a century

serving the people of South Carolina and our Nation as a Senator, as Governor of South Carolina, and as a State legislator.

Remarkably, his career in the Senate spanned the administrations of 10 Presidents, from Dwight Eisenhower to George W. Bush. His passing last night certainly will be felt by so many Members of this Chamber who had grown accustomed to the courtly gentleman from South Carolina. But his life leaves a lesson for us all in compassion, respect, civility, dedication, and hard work.

Before he was elected to the Senate in 1954, as the only write-in candidate in history to win a seat in Congress, Strom Thurmond was elected county school superintendent, State Senator, and circuit judge. He resigned his judgeship to enlist in the Army in World War II. He landed in Normandy as part of the 82nd Airborne assault on D-Day and, the story goes, flew into France on a glider, crash-landing in an apple orchard. He went on to help liberate Paris, and he received a Purple Heart, five Battle Stars, and numerous other awards for his World War II service.

My husband Bob and I were honored to have known Strom Thurmond for so many years and to count him among our very special friends. He and Bob shared a great deal of common history, dating from their World War II days. And his southern gallantry always had a way of making this North Carolinian feel right at home.

I first worked with Strom Thurmond when I served as Deputy Special Assistant to the President at the White House. Even then he was an impressive Senator. President Reagan praised his expert handling as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee of nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In fact, it was Strom Thurmond's skill as chairman that helped to shepherd through the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor as the Nation's first female on the U.S. Supreme Court. I had always admired Strom Thurmond for his constant dedication to the people of South Carolina and to the industries of that State.

Bob Dole has joked that someone once asked if Strom had been around since the Ten Commandments. Bob said that couldn't have been true; if Strom Thurmond had been around, the 11th commandment would have been: Thou shalt support the textile industry.

And that industry still needs a lot of help. In fact, when President Reagan called Strom to wish him a happy 79th birthday back in 1981, Strom Thurmond, with his constant attention to South Carolina interests, used the opportunity to talk to the President about the textile industry.

Indeed, South Carolina is full of stories of how the senior Senator from South Carolina managed to cut through redtape to make sure that his residents got the things they needed.

And whenever South Carolinians called, or anyone else for that matter, Strom Thurmond could always be counted on to show up—at a Fourth of July parade, a county festival, or a State fair, armed with his trademark Strom Thurmond key chains.

North Carolinians developed a fondness for Strom Thurmond. He often flew in to Charlotte before driving to his Edgeville, SC, home. He became so familiar in the airport that many of the workers there knew him, and he knew them all for stopping to share a kind word or a funny story.

I was so honored that just before Strom went home for good to South Carolina, he came in his wheelchair, with Nancy's help, to my little basement office to welcome me to the Senate.

Bob and I send our heartfelt condolences to Strom's family, our dear friend, Nancy, and the children, including daughter Julie, who worked with me at the American Red Cross. He was a loving husband, a proud father, and new grandfather, and, of course, the people of South Carolina, for whom he worked tirelessly throughout his career in public service and to whom he chose to return when his work was done in the Senate.

Today as I remember him, his life, and his legacy, I think of the Bible in the 25th chapter of Matthew when the Lord said:

Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

May God bless him and his family.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(Mrs. DOLE assumed the Chair.)

FILIBUSTER REFORM

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, last Tuesday, the Committee on Rules and Administration favorably reported S. Res. 138, a proposal to amend the Senate's cloture rule. The committee's action represents an important milestone on the road to filibuster reform. It brings the Senate one key step closer to ending filibusters on nominations. On May 9 of this year, I introduced S. Res. 138, along with a bipartisan group of 11 cosponsors. Our purpose was to respond to a disturbing change in the way the Senate considers nominations.

Lengthy and apparently implacable filibusters have erupted on two judicial nominations. Although it has long been clear that a majority of Senators stand ready to confirm Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen, it is increasingly obvious that a minority of Senators never intends to permit these nominations to come to a vote.